## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:20-CV-00504-FDW-DSC

CPI SECURITY SYSTEMS INC.,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	ORDER
VIVINT SMART HOME INC. et. al.,	)	
Defendants.	)	
Detenuants.	,	

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court on a letter from journalist Christie Smythe docketed as a "<u>Pro Se</u> Motion for Transcripts" (document #153) along with the parties' responses and Smythe's reply (documents ##155, 156 and 164). Smythe seeks "immediate access to a copy of the transcript of the closing arguments in the trial" of this matter. Document #153 at 1. The parties acknowledge that once the transcript is prepared by the court reporter, there will need to be a brief period for making any redactions.

The testimony and exhibits admitted in open court are open to the public pursuant to the broad right of access recognized by the federal courts. See, e.g., Doe v. Pub. Citizen, 749 F.3d 246, 266 (4th Cir. 2014) ("We have cautioned district courts that the right of public access, whether arising under the First Amendment or the common law, "may be abrogated only in unusual circumstances."); Legal Newsline v. Garlock Sealing Techs. LLC, 518 B.R. 358, 364 (W.D.N.C. 2014) ("[T]he public and the press have a co-extensive right to view and consider documents tendered a judge and/or jury when a dispute is brought in the ultimate public forum, a courtroom").

Without citing any authority in support, Smythe contends she is entitled to the transcript before it has been reviewed for redactions and made available to the public. The Court finds no basis to expedite its normal procedures here.

## THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- Christie Smythe's "Pro Se Motion for Transcripts" (document #153) is GRANTED IN
  PART and DENIED IN PART. Specifically, after the transcript is completed, filed
  by the court reporter, and redactions are completed, Smythe may order the transcript or
  a portion thereof and submit payment as directed by the Clerk's Office.
- 2. The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to counsel of record, Ms. Smythe, and to the Honorable Frank D. Whitney.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: March 20, 2023

David S. Cayer

United States Magistrate Judge